


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A valve assembly for a hospital bed

including:

 a manifold block having ~~an a~~ a first inlet, an a first outlet configured to connect to a device for positioning the bed, and a first conduit in fluid communication with the first inlet and with the first outlet, a second inlet, a second outlet, and a second conduit in fluid communication with the second inlet and with the second outlet;

a first valve having a portion movable within the first conduit between a first position inhibiting fluid communication between the first inlet and the first outlet, and a second position permitting fluid communication between the first inlet and the first outlet;

a second valve having a portion moveable within the second conduit between a first position inhibiting fluid communication between the second inlet and the second outlet, and a second position permitting fluid communication between the second inlet and the second outlet;

a lever connected to both the first valve and the second valve to permit manual movement of the ~~valve-valves between the their respective first positions and the second positions, the lever being located entirely outside the conduit; and~~

a first solenoid connected directly to the first valve to move the first valve between the first and second positions in response to an electrical input to the first solenoid, the position of the lever being independent of the presence of the electrical input to the first solenoid; and

a second solenoid connected to the second valve to move the second valve between the first and second positions in response to an electrical input to the second solenoid, the position of the lever being independent of the presence of the electrical input to the second solenoid.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly of claim 21, further including~~ A valve assembly including:

a manifold block having an inlet, an outlet, and a conduit in fluid communication with the inlet and with the outlet;

a valve having a portion movable within the conduit between a first

position inhibiting fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet, and a second position permitting fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet;

a lever connected to the valve to permit manual movement of the valve between the first and the second positions;

a solenoid connected to the valve to move the valve between the first and second positions in response to an electrical input to the solenoid, the position of the lever being independent of the presence of the electrical input to the solenoid;
and

a lock engaging the lever to lock the lever in a position having the valve in the second position.

23. (Original) The assembly of claim 22 wherein the lock includes a lock solenoid and a lock bar coupled to the lock solenoid, the lock bar engaging the lever, and the lock solenoid being operable to move the lock bar in response to an electrical input to the lock solenoid.

24. (Original) The assembly of claim 22 wherein the lock includes a lock bar movable into and out of engagement with the lever and a lock solenoid coupled to the lock bar, the lock solenoid being operable to move the lock bar relative to the lever.

25. (Original) The assembly of claim 21 wherein the lever is pivotally coupled to the manifold.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly of claim 21 wherein~~ A valve assembly for a hospital bed including;

a manifold block having an inlet, an outlet configured to connect to a device for positioning the bed, and a conduit in fluid communication with the inlet and with the outlet;

a valve having a portion movable within the conduit between a first position inhibiting fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet, and a second position permitting fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet;

a lever connected to the valve to permit manual movement of the valve between the first and the second positions, the lever being located entirely outside the conduit; and

a solenoid connected directly to the valve to move the valve between the first and second positions in response to an electrical input to the solenoid, the position of the lever being independent of the presence of the electrical input to the

solenoid, the solenoid ~~is being~~ positioned between the manifold and the lever.

27. (Original) The assembly of claim 21 wherein the valve includes a stem, the lever includes an opening, and a part of the stem is received in the opening.

28-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) A valve assembly for a support device, including:

a manifold having an a first inlet, an a first outlet configured to connect to a device for positioning the support device, and a first conduit in fluid communication with the first inlet and the first outlet, a second inlet, a second outlet, and a second conduit in fluid communication with the second inlet and the second outlet;

a first valve having a portion movable within the conduit between a first position inhibiting fluid communication between the first inlet and the first outlet, and a second position permitting fluid communication between the first inlet and the first outlet;

a second valve having a portion movable within the conduit between a first position inhibiting fluid communication between the second inlet and the second outlet, and a second position permitting fluid communication between the second inlet and the second outlet;

an actuator connected to both of the valve valves to permit manual movement of the valve valves between the their respective first positions and the second positions, ~~the actuator being located entirely outside the conduit; and~~

a first solenoid connected directly to the first valve to move the first valve between the first and second positions in response to an electrical input to the first solenoid, the position of the actuator being independent of the presence of the electrical input to the first solenoid; and

a second solenoid connected to the second valve to move the second valve between the first and second positions in response to an electrical input to the second solenoid, the position of the actuator being independent of the presence of the electrical input to the second solenoid.

Rule 1.126.1 55 41. (New) The valve assembly of claim 22, wherein the lock is integral with the lever.

56 42. (New) The valve assembly of claim 22, wherein the lock is

activated by pressure on the lever.

⁵⁷ 43. (New) The valve assembly of claim 26, wherein the solenoid is positioned outside the manifold.

⁵⁸ 44. (New) A valve assembly including:

a manifold block having an inlet, an outlet, a conduit in fluid communication with the inlet and with the outlet;

a valve having a portion movable within the conduit between a first position inhibiting fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet, and a second position permitting fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet;

a lever connected to the valve to permit manual movement of the valve between the first and the second positions, the lever including first and second bias mechanisms, the first bias mechanism urging the lever toward a position that places the valve in the second position, the second bias mechanism urging the lever away from the position that places the valve in the second position; and

a solenoid connected to the valve to move the valve between the first and second positions in response to an electrical input to the solenoid, the position of the lever being independent of the presence of the electrical input to the solenoid.

⁵⁹ 45. (New) The valve assembly of claim ⁵⁸ 44, wherein the first and second bias mechanisms are springs.

⁶⁰ 46. (New) The valve assembly of claim ⁵⁹ 45, wherein compression of the spring of the first bias mechanism results in the elongation of the spring of the second bias mechanism.

⁶¹ 47. (New) The valve assembly of claim ⁵⁸ 44, wherein the lever is movable into a first position wherein the first and second bias mechanisms are in equilibrium.

⁶² 48. (New) The valve assembly of claim ⁶¹ 47, wherein when the lever is in the position that places the valve in the second position, the lever is urged toward the first position by the net force of the first and second bias mechanisms.

⁶³ 49. (New) The valve assembly of claim ⁶¹ 47, wherein the first and second bias mechanisms combine to urge the lever toward the first position when the lever is displaced from the first position.